

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06997 081724Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /055 W
-----043792 081729Z /72
R 081710Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9329
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 06997

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO: DIRECTOR GENERAL COMMENTS ON AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL AND THE SOVIET UNION

REF: GENEVA 6043 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MEETING MAY 5 BETWEEN ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL
BLANCHARD AND IMEC REPS, BLANCHARD COMMENTED ON A REPORT
BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL "PSYCHIATRIC ABUSES DOCUMENTED
BY WORKERS GROUP IN THE USSR". BLANCHARD SAID THE
REPORT RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER FREEDOM OF ASSOCIA-
TION EXISTS IN THE USSR. HE STATED HE WOULD RAISE
THIS ISSUE WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES DURING A TRIP TO
MOSCOW BEGINNING MAY 9.

2. BLANCHARD STATED THE AMNESTY REPORT PROMPTED INQUIRIES
AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE ILO. HE
INFORMED AMNESTY THAT THE ILO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF FAILING
TO RECOGNIZE A TRADE UNION. BUT THE ILO HAS NO AUTHORITY
TO TAKE THIS STEP. THE ILO IS EQUIPPED TO PROTECT TRADE
UNIONS ONLY AFTER A COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE ILO CONSTITUTION. NO COMPLAINT HAS YET BEEN
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RECEIVED. BLANCHARD TOLD IMEC REPS HE INFORMED THE
SOVIET MISSION IN GENEVA OF THE EXCHANGE WITH AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL. HE SAID THE SOVIETS REACTED "MOODILY";
THAT SOVIET REP, BORCHTCHEVSKI, ACCUSED THE ILO OF BEING
PREJUDICED (AGAINST THE SOVIETS).

3. BLANCHARD SAID HE HOPED THAT IF THERE IS TO BE ANY

EFFORT ON THE PART OF ILO MEMBERS TO DEAL WITH THE SUB-
STANCE OF THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT, IT WOULD BE
DONE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF
ASSOCIATION RATHER THAN BY WAY OF A CONFERENCE RESOLUTION.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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